

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID SAN DIEGO CA PERMIT #1864

Vol. 66 — No. 27 — COMPANY G

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

WWW.MCRDSD.USMC.MIL



Sqt. Ralph Hammond, administration chief, Assistant Chief of Staff Recruiting, searches a vehicle. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

Ground security Marines keep depot prepared for terrorists

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT BEAVER Chevron Staff

ince Sept. 11, 2001, more detailed security measures have been put in place in military installations across the globe, and the depot is no exception. Military policemen here have a spe-

cial resource available to help supplement security.

The depot's Provost Marshal's Office trained and employed a new group of Ground Security Force Marines Aug. 30.

GSF Marines are used primarily during recruit graduations but can also be activated during other occasions to reinforce PMO.

During graduations, many people from across the country come to see their friends and loved ones graduate from Marine Corps Recruit Training. The GSF also presents a show of force.

Although GSF Marines are not as thoroughly trained as each military police officer, they are adequately trained for their mission.

"I feel confident that I will be successful out there," said Lance Cpl. Anthony V. Rogers, administrative clerk, CPAC. "I also feel that the training is sufficient enough for me to have faith that I will be safe when other Marines are guarding our gates."

Rogers, a 19-year-old native of Chicago, finished the three-day GSF course as part of the first class to receive more detailed training with the

weapons GSF uses for security.

The training consisted mostly of class presentations on terrorism awareness and prevention to basic military police knowledge and policies. Weapons operations, maintenance and general knowledge were also featured.

As the course continued, the Marines learned about suspect escorting and apprehension techniques. They also get the opportunity to try out scenarios that they may experience on post.

The final day of training was the opportunity for the Marines to test every thing they learned. This specific class was unique, since they were the first to have the opportunity to shoot weapons more than any other class, due to ammunition

Upon return from the weapons range, the Marines finalized their training with one last practical application exercise. A simulated check point was set up with cars driving through it.

The Marines were given two scenarios of incidents that could happen but most likely won't. Both involved either a concealed weapon or drugs. At the completion of each inspection, the class instructor critiqued the Marines' performance.

As the Marines finished their training, some of them found themselves on the job within the next day. However, PMO welcomes their help.

'We couldn't do our job without the GSF Marines," said Sgt. Robert T. Horn, watch commander for 2nd Platoon, PMO. "They don't realize how

9/11 **ANNIVERSARY**

Five years after the towers fell in New York, Marine Corps mission still strong and clear

The terrorist attacks that occurred five years ago were intended to paralyze the nation and demoralize the great people of our democracy. In contrast to the desired result of the terrorists, Americans bonded,

volunteered and responded to the attacks with one voice and determined resolve.

President George W. Bush told all Americans that, "Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faceless coward, and freedom will be defended."

Together as a nation, we sent a clear signal that we would not tolerate anyone at-

tempting to destroy our way of life. Today, America and the Marine Corps stand stronger than ever as young Americans enlisting in the Marine Corps understand the complexities of the Global War on Terrorism and continue to support this noble cause. Our recruiters and drill instructors continue to recruit and transform our country's very best young men and women into Marines.

FROM OUR

These same Marines have been responsible for the amazing accomplishments and feats of heroism in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world. The Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region are joined by our civilian Marines in remembrance of this day in our history to remind us of our mission to facilitate the protection of our nation, and remain ever vigilant and ready to answer the call.

A. Salinas Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps





RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

As a boxer, he's fought for many titles. Now with the title "Marine," he fights for freedom.



6

CHEVRON | OPINION & EDITORIAL | SEPTEMBER 8, 2006



A Company G recruit fires rounds downrange at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Pfc. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

Recruits learn to be riflemen first

BY PFC. CHARLIE CHAVEZ Chevron staff

The first priority of a Marine is to be a rifleman, and one of the main focuses of recruit training is instilling in recruits the understanding, respect and knowledge of weapons.

During the second phase of boot camp, recruits are moved from the depot to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Edson Range, Calif., for a month, where the first two weeks are devoted to the nomenclature, ammunition differences, safety and firing techniques of the M-16A2 service rifle by primary marksmanship instructors.

"Marksmanship is a unique skill," said Chief Warrant Officer Vincent S. Tope, chief range officer, Edson Range. "Passing on the basic knowledge to recruits is important for them to fire

During the initial week of the

move, recruits from Company G recently learned about the weapon. Understanding the important factors of building firing positions that are stable and easy to move in and out of is important, said Tope, who is from Garland, Texas.

"I had never fired a weapon before," said Pvt. Daniel A. Jimenez, Co. G., Platoon 2009 from Alamosa, Colo., who fired 238 out of 250 for an expert qualification. "The instructors broke down the process very well and helped me overcome my fears about the weapon, which made me comfortable with it."

The course itself is broken into four separate tables that distinguish the type of firing training and focus. The first two tables are completed in boot camp and the third is completed shortly after graduation. The fourth contains more advanced war-fighting techniques that are used mostly by infantrymen.

stationary targets at various distances with slow and sustained fire for a score of 190-209 for marksman, 210-219 for sharpshooter and 220-250 for expert.

In the second table, Co. G Marines

The first table is devoted to engaging

were familiarized with closely engaged combat marksmanship, which included firing controlled pairs of shots, engaging multiple targets and moving targets, according to Tope.

Marines encounter the third table while in Marine Combat Training for non-infantry occupational specialties to further the weapons knowledge, and Infantry Training Battalion for infantrymen at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Marines of Co. G are all basically trained riflemen and have passed the rigors of the rifle range where they engaged targets as far as 500 meters away. These Marines have learned weapons handling and firing skills and are ready to fight in any clime and place.

Depot triathlon club finishes strong in Imperial Beach

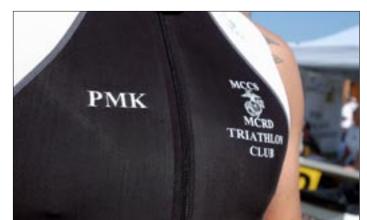
BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT BEAVER Chevron Staff

As hundreds of spectators lined the sidewalks of the Imperial Beach Pier Park in Imperial Beach, Calif., many athletes from all physical levels race against the clock to achieve the best time possible during the 14th annual Imperial Beach Triathlon, Aug. 27.

Each competitor had to swim a 500 meters, jump on a bike and pedal nine miles, and then run 3.2 miles to the finish line.

Seven Marines from the depot's triathlon team were among the racers who crossed the finish line.

Staff Sgt. Ira Wilkie lead his team with a final time of 1:03:17. Wilkie placed fifth in the men's military division, while the rest of his team followed closely behind him. The entire triathlon team



The depot triathlon club wears the initials "P.M.K." to honor the team's deceased founder, Capt. Patrick M. Klokow. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

finished within the top portion of the division.

"There's no better way to spend a Sunday morning," said Wilkie. "These races are like a celebration for all the hard work we accomplished together. It's not about winning; it's about getting out there with your fellow Marines and doing it."

Preparing for each race takes dedication—the team tries to train together everyday, practicing and polishing their swimming, biking and running skills. However, sometimes they only find time to do at least one skill each, said Capt. Ryan Cunningham.

Training for such events can take an emotional toll, as the team lost a close friend and mentor nearly a year ago during a morning bike ride.

"(Capt. Patrick M. Klokow) was a fantastic Marine Corps officer and a good friend," said Cunningham. "We still miss him and honor him every time we come out here."

Klokow, founder of the team, fell victim to a hit-and-run driver, which cost him his life.

Since that fateful morning, the depot triathlon team has continued to honor their past friend. Klokow's initials are printed on the team jerseys.

The team lost a friend, but they strive to find more. They welcome anybody, at any skill level, to become part of the team, said Cunningham.

"The aspects of this sport go hand-in-hand with the Marine Corps," said Wilkie, participant of the Florida Iron man competition. "It requires a lot of personal dedication and experience that Marines are known for."

For information about joining the MCRD Triathlon team, call (619) 524-4325.

BRIEFS

Military testing offered at RAB

The Recruit Administration Branch offers the Defense Language Proficiency Test, Defense Language Aptitude Battery, and Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery tests to all military members, active and reservists. Testing is held every Friday at 8 a.m. Contact Mr. Rahmani or Mrs. Walters at (619) 524-6123 to schedule an appointment.

Online National Security Personnel System course

Now is your opportunity to familiarize yourself with the National Security Personnel System. Employees are encouraged to take this online course and print the certificate to be included into your DCPDS training record. Drop off a copy of your certificate at the HRO Building 7 West. Military supervisors and managers are also asked to drop a copy of the certificate.

The Department of Defense webbased course, NSPS 101 is now available at http://www.cpms.osd.mil/ nsps/nsps101.

This 45 to 60 minute course provides an excellent overview of NSPS, including classification, conversion, compensation, performance management and workforce shaping. One notable feature of the course is a conversion tool with salary calculator, where employees can determine their new career group, pay schedule, pay band and an estimate of their grade increase buy-in. Send any questions you may have via e-mail to Aixa Bueltel ataixa.bueltel@usmc.mil.

Voting assistance

Voting is our right and a civic responsibility. Its importance cannot be overstated. Take the time to vote in the General Elections on Nov. 7. To vote you must be registered so you can receive an absentee ballot. Unit Voting Assistance Officers can help you with registration. It's quick and easy. Please contact your UVAO if you would like to exercise your right to vote. Here are the UVAOs located aboard the Depot: Command/Installation: Ms. Botuchis at (619) 524-8735 **Headquarters and Service Battalion:** Capt. Serano at 524-1979 **Recruit Training Regiment:** Gunnery Sgt. Leese at 524-0367 12th Marine Corps District:

Recruiter assistants wanted

Capt. Mestemacher at 524-5572

Recruiting Station Twin Cities, Minn., is looking for Marines, sergeant and below, to participate in the Command Recruiting Program as recruiter assistants for the following areas: Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne and Wright County. Marines will be issued permissive TAD orders by parent commands if authorized. Promotion points, Meritorious Masts, Certificates of Commendation and many other incentives are available. For more information, contact Master Gunnery Sgt. Bautista at (763) 576-9049, or email bautistaeg@marines.usmc.mil

SEND BRIEFS TO jess.levens@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

POW memorial service gives young Marine new memories of past heroes

BY PFC. ALICIA SMALL Chevron staff

As the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Color Guard presented the colors, I saw tears come to the eyes of ex-prisoners of war, and their families as they placed their hands over their hearts and sang the national anthem.

I recently attended a memorial service that was part of a reunion for the Korean War Ex-POW Camp Two Association in hopes of writing a story on the event in remembrance of our veterans.

Although I got a story, it wasn't quite what I had planned.

My grandfather was in the Navy during World War II, and I have always been close to him. I was always interested in his stories about what he did in the war, even though he never talked about it as much as the rest of my family and I wished he would have.

My grandfather's story is important to me, and I am confident that other veterans' families want to know their loved ones' stories as well. So, my plan for the story was to speak with at least one of the humble heroes and get a more personal outlook on what the war was like for him.

I found it difficult for these men to tell personal details because of how modest they were about what they had done and how proud they were to have fought for our country.

One man, Mack McTaggart, a native of Satellite Beach, Fl., told me a little bit about his time in the prison camp. He was in one of the first B-29 bomber planes that

BY CAPT. CHRISTIAN PAPPAS

Legal Assistance Officer/Staff Judge Advocate

"I want to leave my Playstation 2 to Pfc.

Jones if something happens to me, sir," the

Marine said with whom I was meeting to

draw up his will before he went on deploy-

ment. I asked him what else he wanted to

give away in his will if he died. He said that

The junior enlisted Marine was unmar-

ried, had no children, no real estate, and

"You don't need a will," I told him.

The Marine that sat across my desk in the

looked quizzically at me. "What do you

mean I don't need a will, sir?" he asked. I

that we'd certainly draw one up for him if

The act of getting a will and execut-

ing a document that states what you want

ventures over to the Law Center. The Legal

Administrative Manual states that under

no circumstances will a Marine be forced

to get a will. Often-times, before a deploy-

ment, units are rounded up and sent off

to happen to your property if you die is

a service we provide any Marine who

explained that he didn't need a will, but

Legal Assistance Section of the Law Center

not more than \$2,000 to \$3,000 in his

Navy Federal bank account.

was shot down during the war. He relayed to me how harsh life was in a prison camp and how he and the other men were tortured.

He spent 90 days in the hole, which is an area designated for prisoners who were referred as the biggest threats to their captors. In this dark and claustrophobic room, he was unable to stand up or lay down. The entire time he was forced to stay in the same position without the privilege of stretching or moving to a more comfortable stance.

McTaggart said everything he went through was for freedom's sake. He said he fought so people could live and worship as they pleased, and he believed all his sacrifices were worth it.

While I was at the memorial service, I also met the daughter of another one of these brave men. Her father passed away two years ago, but she was able to tell me a little about him.

He was an Air Force pilot that had been shot down and captured after the Tiger Death March, which was a nine-day forced march of POWs over 120 miles of steep Korean terrain, where hundreds of American men died from causes ranging from being shot to dysentery.

He and many other men in the camp were starved until they were repatriated or sent back to America.

She said he got down to about 85 pounds. Then, before they were released from the camp, they started feeding them more to give the impression they were treated better during their internment.

As I sat and listened to the list of these

Legal: Not everyone needs a will

to the law center to get wills. But do they

The bottom line is that if you are mar-

ried, have children, have some real estate or

other valuable assets or monies, you should

A will is taken by your executor, or the

person who carries out your bequests, and

a court of law. Many times, Marines will

want to have certain pieces of personal property like their officer or noncom-

missioned officer sword go to a brother

or sister or fellow Marine instead of their

wanted to give his Harley Davidson mo-

I had another Marine who told me he

torcycle to his civilian friend as long as the

friend painted on the gas tank the Marine's

face and the following: "In memory of Pri-

vate First Class Johnny Smith, he was cool

However, what many Marines don't

understand is that if you have very little

parents (assuming that's where you want

your property to go and you have neither

children nor a spouse) it's not cost effective

The fees associated with probating a

to have a will probated in a court of law.

money and little to give away to your

with it ...": I was happy to oblige.

get a will. A will is a valuable instrument

which tells your friends and family how

vou want your inheritance given.

really need them?

courageous men who had passed since their repatriation, I realized how fast we are losing them and how many of their stories go untold.

Their legacies are dying with them and I believe we need to talk to them more and try to persuade them to understand how important it is that they tell their account of the wars.

Our veterans have fought and died for the rights and freedoms of our country. It is crucial for those presently serving in the military to know what great men and women have come before them. I believe you have to know where you came from to have success in your life.

The history these distinguished men and women have made is fundamental to those making the decision to join the armed forces. I think if people see the magnitude of sacrifices that were made to protect their liberties, it may convince them of the significance of continuing the tradition.

I am fortunate to have my grandfather still around and have the ability to speak to him about the things he did while he served this great country. Every time I hear another story of his, I am confident that my decision to join the Marine Corps was the best decision I've ever made.

It is because of the extraordinary men like my grandpa that I had the opportunity to raise my right hand or stand on the yellow footprints. I thank him and every veteran who fought for and or died for the sake of this wonderful country.

will when compared with the very little

that is actually being given away is not cost

effective when all there may be to distrib-

ute is a Playstation and \$200 in an account.

Almost all states have predictable ad-

ministrative estate laws in place for people

who die intestate, or without a will. These

laws usually follow your family line by

giving your property to your spouse first,

parents second and siblings third and its

Another misunderstanding is that you

need a new will every time your squadron

or unit deploys. This is not always the case.

significant has happened in your life. If you

got married or had another child, you may

You may want to disinherit a spouse

You only need a new will if something

want to include them in your new will.

because you are separated, but not yet

divorced. A new will is also a good idea

if you purchased real estate or inherited

Regardless of your circumstances, the

Building 12 is prepared to talk you through

Law Center's Legal Assistance Section in

your issues and ultimately give you the

of whether or not to get a will.

knowledge you need to make the decision

some land or money.

cost free. This can be important if your

family has to spend \$4,000 on funeral

expenses.

Young Marines are good kids with good goals

BY PFC. ALICIA SMALL Chevron staff

It's not every day you find a young teenager who knows what he or she wants to do with his or her life. Children often become confused about what they want their future to hold, unless they have the proper guidance and tools to help make their decision.

The Temecula Valley Young Marines provides that guidance children need to lead a productive and prideful life. The Young Marines program is a blessing in disguise.

During the time in America's history that it seems the youth are becoming more rebellious and more disobedient with the increasing lack of leadership in their lives, a program like the Young Marines shows up and provides the leadership and learning tools they need to live a happy, successful life.

Speaking with any of the children in the program, no matter how old, is a delightful experience. The kids are extremely polite and very well-behaved. Please and thank yous are common to be heard.

Knowing what you want to do with your life is an important thing. By the time most of these kids reach the age of 14 and 15, they already know what they want to do.

Even if they don't choose to continue on and pursue the Marine Corps, the things the kids learn from the program are used in their decision to choose an upstanding career.

Most young children and teenagers don't do much for their community and have little to no care for showing the veterans any appreciation for what they did for the country. This program helps the children realize how important our veterans are and what they can do to raise their quality of life, like they did for us while fighting for our freedoms.

Children, especially teenagers, are usually too involved in their own lives to try and make a difference in other's lives. They tend to want to go out and have fun with friends than do anything to help the community become better and more improved.

The Young Marines go all over participating in various activities to help the community and people in general. Recently, they walked over 100 miles and raised over \$2,100 in donations at a Relay for Life walk in support of the American Cancer Society.

Laying a wreath on the Tomb of the

Unknown Soldier was one of the many things the group has done to show gratitude to all veterans. They have taken part in World War II memorial ceremonies and traveled to Las Angeles for Vietnam Veteran History Day. The leadership of the Young Marines has

been extraordinary. Getting parents involved with their children's lives is sometimes a hard thing to do. Temecula Valley Young Marines is very family-oriented and strongly encourages full-family participation if at all possible.

These kids are being provided with the key to unlock the door of amazing accomplishments.

Keep up the great work, Young Marine volunteers, and these children will remember you in all their success.

CHEVRON ESTABLISHED 1943

COMMANDING GENERAL Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas

SERGEANT MAJOR Sgt. Maj. Bobby B. Woods PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Maj. Kristen A. Lasica kristen.lasica@usmc.mil

DEPUTY DIRECTOR JANICE M. HAGAR janice.hagar@usmc.mil

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEFMASTER SGT. BARRY L. PAWELEK barry.pawelek@usmc.mil

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER

Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beav Lance Cpl. James Green Pfc. Charlie Chavez Pfc. Alicia Small

PRESS CHIEF
STAFF SGT. JEFF JANOWIEC
jeffrey.janowiec@usmc.mil

Jess Levens jess.levens@usmc.mil

NS 1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120 @usmc.mil SAN DIEGO, CA 92140 (619) 524-8727

(619) 524-8727 ance with Marine Corps Order P5600

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Chevron, printed with appropriated funds in compliance with Marine Corps Order P5600.31F, is published by Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego personnel. Opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense. The Chevron is promulgated for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All photos are official USMC property unless otherwise indicated.

CHEVRON | **FEATURE** | SEPTEMBER 8, 2006 CHEVRON | FEATURE | SEPTEMBER 8, 2006



Lance Cpl. Quentin Grogan, short stop for the Barstow Bulldogs, sweeps up a ground ball as it rolls into center field. Lance Cpl. James Green/Chevron

Depot hosts 4th regional softball tourney, MCAS Miramar takes home hardware

BY LANCE CPL. JAMES GREEN Chevron staff

The 2006 West Coast Regional Softball Championship kicked off with Col. Mark Callihan, chief of staff, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, throwing the first pitch.

After the opening ceremony, the games began with a match between "Old School", Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the "Bulldogs", Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

This year's championship was hosted by the depot for its fourth time in the almost 50-year history of the Marine Corps Regional Softball Championship.

The tourney included California-Marine teams from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, MCRD San Diego, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, 1st Marine Division Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Marines from Yuma, Ariz., and Hawaii also attended the event.

A scout from the All-Marine Softball Team, the team that represents the Marine Corps in the Armed Forces Championship Games, attended the games in search of

After a week of competition, the Camp Pendleton and Miramar teams played in the championship game. With well-rounded teams playing on both sides, the day started off slowly. Pendleton and Miramar were separated by one

Miramar held Pendleton down in the third inning before taking a 10-4 lead. By the fifth inning, Pendleton was inching its way closer to Miramar. After a Miramar error, Pendleton had a runner on base, and a two-run homer made the score 11-8 in Miramar's favor, but in the final inning, Miramar tacked on six more runs to win the championship 17-8.







A Camp Pendleton Old School runner is thrown out at first base in the 28-2 win over Barstow. Pfc. Alicia Small/Chevron



Members of the Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms stand at attention and cover their hearts as the national anthem plays before the first game of the tournament. Ptc. Alicia Small/Chevron

Gunnery Sgt. Alonzo Baxter, designated hitter for Camp Pendleton's Old School, hits one of four home runs against Barstow.

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

FIGHTING FOR ANOTHER TITLE

Co. G Marine with boxing background knocks out training

BY LANCE CPL. JAMES GREEN

Despite four golden gloves championships, four Colorado state championships, three junior Olympic titles, two Four Corners Regional championships, one national title and an international boxing title, one Company G Marine chose to earn a title not related to sports.

Private Edgar L. Ramirez, a Denver native, decided he wanted to earn the title "Marine" and enlisted in the Marine Corps as a supply administration clerk.

After seeing a boxing match between Felix Trinadad and Fernando Vargas when he was 12 years old, Ramirez decided to pursue boxing. At the age of 18, the young Marine already has six years of boxing experience. He came into the Marine Corps with hopes of furthering his career as part of the elite fighting organization.

"I heard the Marines had the best trained fighters in the world," said Ramirez. "I hope I make the team so I can be a part of their success."

Ramirez joined the Marine Corps a week after graduating high school. Other than school and volunteering at church, most of his days were occupied with boxing training. The rigorous schedule prepared him for the physical expectations he faced in recruit training.

"Ramirez's physical abilities were outstanding. He really relieved a lot of stress for us in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., during the boxing exercises," said Ramirez's senior drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Juan J. Mora, Platoon 2016, Company G.

After more than six years and 15 boxing titles, he was inspired by a friend to join the Marines. Already in the Marines, his friend was able to tell him first-hand about the benefits and opportunities the Marine

Corps has to offer.

With this inspiration and the curiosity of a challenge, Ramirez attended some physical training sessions at his local recruiter's office. Having been pushed to the peak of his abilities, the Marine Corps was at the top of the list on his agenda.

Ramirez received good wishes from his family and boxing coach before joining the Marines. As part of his search for a good education and training, he knew the Marines would put him on the right path in his search for advancement and leadership.

"One of the reasons I joined the Marines was to serve my country and expand my intellect while traveling during that process," Ramirez said.

After a short time in boot camp, Ramirez received a letter from home stating the Marine Corps Boxing Team contacted his recruiter after he informed them of Ramirez's talent. Upon his graduation of recruit training, he will meet with them and try out for a position as a light weight boxer.

"I think he will do well," said Mora. "He always led by example and remained motivated throughout the entire cycle."

As recruit training comes to an end, another chance for advancement comes in focus for the newly-minted Marine. Ramirez welcomes back the opportunity to box again, and hope for achievement in this golden opportunity is anticipated by Ramirez, his family, his coach and the Marines by his side.



Pvt. Edgar L. Ramirez, Platoon 2016, Company G, sounds off after a graduation ceremony rehearsal here Wednesday morning. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

Retired Gunnery Sgt. Percy E. Brandon

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Retired Gunnery Sgt. Percy E. Brandon was born in Rosebud, S.D., June 29, 1935. He joined the Marine Corps in 1952 and left for boot camp on January 19, 1953. After completion of boot camp, Brandon was sent to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., for combat training and then reported to his first duty assignment as a rifleman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Division at Camp Talega aboard Camp Pendleton.

Over the next 17 years, Brandon spent time in various around the world. He left for Japan in June 1953, with a short stop in Hawaii. When he returned to the United States, he was sent to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., for duty as a military policeman.

In May 1955, Brandon was sent to

Kodiak, Alaska and subsequently to Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif., and was assigned to the Navy brig for duty until September 1958. Following that tour of duty, he received orders to 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. and was later sent to Military Police Company at Camp Pendleton. Brandon was discharged from the Marine Corps in February 1962, but after a short stint as a civilian, he reenlisted in April 1962. Brandon was assigned to the 5th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton.

In November 1962, Brandon was sent to Sea School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif. for training, and he was assigned to the USS Columbus CG-12 for two years. He then received orders to 2nd Marine Division in 1964 and was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 2ndMarines. During his time there, Brandon deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for 8 months.

Following that assignment, Brandon received orders to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. for drill instructor duty. During his tour, he served as a drill instructor and senior

After his tour at MCRD Parris Island, Brandon was sent to Vietnam in November 1967. He was initially assigned to 3rd Marine Division and assumed the duties of company gunnery sergeant for Company F, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. While he was with 2/4, his unit conducted patrolling operations in the Demilitarized Zone and faced the 320th Division of the North Vietnamese Army. By April 1968, Brandon had been wounded three times and was sent home. After 30 days, he returned to Vietnam to serve as the company gunnery sergeant for Company E, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. He was wounded one more time by June 1968 and returned to the U.S. to recover from his wound. On April 1, 1973, Brandon retired from the Marine

Brandon's personal awards include



the Purple Heart with 3 gold stars in lieu of subsequent awards, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V," Combat Action Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal with 5 bronze stars. He is married to the former Shirlie Bird. They have three children and five grandchildren.



Recruited by



Pfc. A. T. Youngblood Temecula, Calif. Recruited by

Pvt. C. A. Samford

Pvt. T. P. Seo

Pvt. J. R. Sneed

Pvt. T. M. Stofko

Pfc. B. H. Vinzant

PLATOON 2010

Drill Instructors

Sgt. W. Francoeur

Sgt. C. N. Mancio

Sgt. R. Villegas

Sgt. R. C. McGaugher

Pvt. R. Aquilarmartinez

Pvt. J. R. Aquilera

Pfc. C. W. Atkinsor

Pfc. K. A. Bandimere

Pvt. E. J. Barrantessegui

Pvt. N. B. Avery

Pvt. C. C. Baete

Pvt. G. N. Bull

Pvt. P. C. Burggraf

Pfc. D. W. Campbel

Pfc. C. M. Carrillo

Pfc. D. Castro Jr.

Pfc. D. E. Cox

Pvt. A. M. Crane

Pvt. A. Davila Pvt. D. L. Davis Jr

*Pfc. M. B. Davis

Pvt. T. A. Degner

Pvt. J. A. Dorman

Pvt. B. K. Duncan

Pfc. R. D. Fisher

Pfc. J. K. Fokes

Pvt. N. C. Freed

Pvt. R. R. Fuxa

Pfc. C. R. Garcia

Pvt. C. A. Garza

Pvt. D. A. Hansmeie

Pvt. K. F. Hasenoeh

Pvt. R. A. Hauser

Pfc. E. Hernandez

Pfc. F. K. Heston

Pvt. O. B. Hernandez

*Pfc. D. W. Hockgeige

Pvt. R. K. Hugghins Jr.

Pfc. T. D. Hutchings

Pfc. D. R. Jenkins

Pvt. J. D. Jones

Pvt. G. A. Jordan

Pvt. L. S. Jorgenser

Pfc. R. D. Johnson Ji

Pvt. A. A. Duarte III

Pfc. C. A. Desruisseau

Pfc. J. L. Cederstroi

Pvt. A. J. Christophe

Pvt. C. R. Burns

*Pfc. D. J. Wasserman



Pfc. J. Ortega Albuquerque Recruited by



Pfc. B. E. Sexton Jr. Cedar Rapids, Iowa Recruited by

*Pfc. E. E. Cisneros

Pvt. M. A. Corral

Pvt. J. A. Daniels

Pfc. K. D. Diamond

Pfc. E. F. Dorado

Pvt. J. A. Eldred

*Pfc. G. Esquivel

Pvt. D. Galindo Ji

Pvt. J. Galvan Jr.

Pvt. M. D. Garcia

Pvt. D. R. Gillespie

Pfc. D. R. Gilmore

Pvt. C. J. Gilvarry

Pfc. M. H. Gobel

Pvt. M. P. Gonzale:

Pvt. A. Gonzalez

Pvt. D. Gonzalez

Pvt. A. G. Guerra

Pvt. S. Gutierrez

Pvt. J. R. Hartlev

Pfc. R. P. Hewitt

Pvt. S. M. Hunte

Pvt. S. T. Kehoe

Pvt. A. H. Levvas

Pvt. S. M. Macias

Pvt. J. M. Magana

Pvt. D. G. McHazlett

Pvt. J. R. McMasters

Pvt. O. A. Manko

Pfc. S. L. McYav

Pvt. A. R. Minor

Pvt. J. A. Murphy

Pfc. J. C. Murrey

Pvt. S. A. Portillo

Pvt. B. N. Ransom

Pfc. T.J. Retzlaff

*Pfc. G. A. Rivas II

Pvt. R. D. Roberts

Pfc. M. D. Rodriguez

Pfc. D. Ruizaguilar

Pvt. M. C. Schober

Pvt. M. D. Schuetz

Pvt. J. A. Schut

Pvt. J. T. Skidael

Pvt. M. J. Spadaro

Pfc. I. N. Adams III

Pvt. J. L. Rubio

Pvt. M. Ramospreciado

Pvt. A. M. Middleto

Pfc. J. I. Lima

Pfc. W. C. Jimison Jr

Pfc. B. D. Ho

Pvt. E. E. Hernande

Pvt. J. M. Grim

*Pfc. M. A. Flores

Pfc. J. A. Clemens

Pfc. K. M. Conley

Pfc. T. A. Daniels

Pfc. R. K. Delacruz

Pvt. J. Dethphilaphan

Pvt. M. A. Dickens

Pfc. M. P. Donahue

Pvt. M. W. Dragoo

*Pfc. J. G. Duranvillal

Pfc. K. M. Enomoto

Pvt. C. K. Frvzelka

Pvt. E. E. Fryzelka

Pvt. J. Gonona

Pvt. S. J. Gonzalez

Pfc. G. R. Hargett

Pfc. T. S. Haves

Pvt. A. D. Holmes

Pvt. T. L. Hudmar

Pvt. B. J. Jenkins

Pfc. M. A. Jimenez

Pvt. K. R. Kufahl

Pfc. S. A. Lezzen

Pvt. J. S. Lodholtz

Pfc. D. C. McKinzie

Pvt. B. S. Meads

Pfc. B. W. Mever

*Pfc. S. L. Mojarra

Pvt. J. L. Mick

Pvt. N. G. Mvers

Pvt. K. L. Obrvan

Pvt. A. Ortega

Pvt. J. E. Pena

Pfc. A. Ramirez

Pfc. G. A. Reifke

Pvt. K. M. Riley

Pfc. D. P. Robins

Pvt. D. L. Rose

Pvt. E. D. Russel

Pfc. D. E. Simas

Pvt. B. P. Small

Pvt. F. C. Steele

Pfc. J. J. Sulak

Pvt. B. R. Starnes

Pfc. M. T. Stevens

Pvt. D. L. Stewart

Pvt. M. T. Svantner

Pvt. K. A. Swalling

Pvt. P. M. Thomas

Pfc. M. G. Simpsor

Pfc. A. K. Siverlyquido

Pfc. T. R. McMurtray

Pvt. A. P. McCormack

Pvt. J. P. Hults

Pvt. U. Diaz

Pvt. J. G. Dahl



Pfc. Z. M. Vigario Pfc. D. D. Williams Los Angeles Fox Valley, III. Recruited by Recruited by



Pfc. M. R. Pacheco Recruited by



Pfc. R. P. Greene Portland, Oregon Oklahoma City Marksmanship instructor Recruited by

GOLF COMPANY

Lt Col. R. R. Scott

Lt. Cmdr. E. S. Pease Sergeant Major Gunnery Sgt P. Duncar

COMPANY G Commanding Officer Capt. B. D. Lynn Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. K. V. Agee Company Corpsman Petty Officer 3rd Class

SERIES 2009 Series Commande Staff Sgt. D. L. Barrett

J. Q. Larenang

SERIES 2013 Capt T. W. Tilque Gunnery Sgt. A. T. Leal

> **PLATOON 2009** Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sqt. W. C. Johnson

Pfc. P. A. Atchley Pfc. S. A. Baca Pvt. L. J. Barber Pfc. R. W. Bartz Pvt. C. J. Booker Pfc. J. M. Brown Pfc. M. F. Burkey *Lance Cpl. J. J. Cano Pvt R R Cariar Pvt. S. A. Carr Pfc. D. P. Carrigan Pfc. I. L. Chamberla Pvt. J. D. Cottle Pvt. J. R. Curl Pvt. S. M. Curtis Pvt. M. A. Davis Pvt. L. S. Debaeke *Pfc. Z. A. England Pvt. Z. D. Ford Pvt. J. M. Franciscora Pvt T G Fulton Pvt. R. E. Germon Pfc. J. R. Gorman Pfc. K. G. Grafe Pfc. S. C. Greenwel Pvt. J. R. Grubb Pfc. B. K. Howe Pvt. M. A. Howell Pvt. T. C. Humphrey Pfc. C. D. Hurlbut Pvt. J. M. Hutchison Pfc. P. Jacobo Pfc. D. G. Jaworsk Pvt. D. A. Jimenez Pvt. D. C. Johns

Pfc. J. B. Jurkovich Pfc. R. M. Kaleel Pfc. D. C. Kamstra Pfc. D. B. Kemp Pvt. L. A. Leavit Pvt. A. Lee Pfc. I. J. Lloyd Pvt. J. Lu Pvt. I. P. Macdonald Pvt. J. A. Magallanez *Pfc. J. P. Magalong Pvt. C. B. Manfredi Pvt. J. C. Martinez Pvt. J. D. Moore Pvt. C. R. Morelock Pfc. K. A. Morris Pfc. J. P. Mullings Pvt. F. C. Newberry Pvt. J. D. Ortega Pvt. P. W. Park

Pvt. J. D. Peterson

Pvt. M. R. Piepmeye

Pfc. O. T. Richardson

Pvt. C. D. Polk

Pvt. J. M. Quilty

*Pfc. A. R. Karels Pfc. T. W. Kruse Pfc. K. P. Lamoreau Pfc. J. M. Latham Pfc. D. M. Lebronfran Pfc. W. A. Linares Pvt. A. J. Marshall Pvt. P. A. Mcculloch Pvt. M. C. Medina Pvt. A. B. Medrand Pvt R D Miller III Pvt. A. D. Mims Pfc. C. H. Montes Pfc. B. Morales Jr Pvt. E. T. Moran Pvt. O. E. Nash III Pfc. C. J. Orellana Pfc. J. Ortega Pvt. B. R. Parker Pfc. K. C. Pearson Pfc. D. A. Ramos Pvt. J. A. Raney Pvt. N. B. Rench *Pfc. T. A. Riel Pfc. L. G. Rogers III Pfc. S. T. Sloan Pfc. F. J. Torres Pfc. M. R. Watts

PLATOON 2011 Senior Drill Instructo Staff Sgt. M. C. Dioro Staff Sqt. C. C. Moore

Sgt. M. J. Salazar Pvt. M. J. Adams *Pfc. J. J. Adare

Pvt. A. M. Alfonso Pvt. B. D. Allen Pvt. F. N. Ayalacastro *Pfc. M. G. Bennett Pfc. J. M. Birkinbine Pvt. C. E. Bridgewate Pfc. C. M. Brinsfield *Pfc. K. S. Burton Pfc. T. J. Causey Pvt. G. C. Clothier Pvt. A. Corpus Pvt. C. M. Cuchiara Pvt. D. S. Daly *Pfc. E. R. Dominguez Pfc. S. C. Echols Pfc. R. C. Erickson *Pfc. E. M. Faucett Pvt. E. M. Fodge Pfc. J. T. Frimml Pfc. L. N. Furr Pvt. B. D. Gabry Pfc. J. E. Gier Pvt. K. J. Gotzmai Pfc. R. P. Greene Pfc. B. E. Griffith Pfc. M. J. Hagge Pvt. B. W. Hannah Pfc. J. B. Hansen Pvt. J. B. Harrell

Pfc. J. L. Harris III Pvt. D. R. Hawkinson Pfc. J. L. Hernandez Jr Pvt. R. C. Hinojosa Pfc. T. D. Holt Pvt. E. J. Hotchkir Pvt. R. J. Huber Pvt. T. Huzevka Pvt. B. C. Jenoga Pvt. A. A. Jensen Pfc. M. A. Johnson Pvt. M. J. Keim Pvt. J. L. Kendle Pfc. D. K. Kuang Pfc. K. D. Kurta Pfc. J. T. Laduke Pfc. D. J. Lancaste Pvt. T. E. Lee Pvt. J. J. Lopez Pfc. B. D. Lynch Pvt. J. M. Mahaffey Pvt. D. D. Martin Pfc. N. J. Maxie Pvt. J. L. McGee Pvt. L. R. McReynold Pfc. J. M. Menges Pvt. J. J. Meyer Pvt. J. N. Meyer Pvt. J. N. Mondy Pfc. A. D. Moore Pfc. B. F. Morris Pvt. D. P. Murphy Pvt. C. W. Newberry Pvt. A. Reyes Jr. Pvt. T. A. Sabo Pvt. T. J. Sabo Pvt A. R. Saracogli Pvt. S. Sarytchev *Pfc. B. E. Sexton J Pvt. S. O. Smith Jr Pfc. A. F. Stahlecke Pfc. J. L. Sustala Pvt. J. A. Thomas Pvt. M. P. Torres Pvt. C. M. Udvig Pvt. T. J. Webb Pfc. R. G. Wells Pvt. B. A. Williams

PLATOON 2013 Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. L. A. Ham Sqt. M. A. Castillo Sgt. W. A. Winfrey

Pvt. R. N. Cantrell

PLATOON 2014 Pvt. E. A. Agunde: Staff Sgt. A. Mobley *Pfc. N. J. Bednarel Pfc. D. J. Bentley Staff Sgt. Martinez Pvt. B. A. Berger Pfc. A. S. Bradfield Staff Sgt. D. A. McGrego Sgt. D. B. Goheen Pvt. J. E. Bryant

Pvt. E. M. Olson Pvt. D. E. Alexande Pfc. V. W. Tobias Pfc. J. D. Antrim Pfc. J. R. Pearson Pvt. E. D. Treu Pfc. J. A. Trujillo *Pfc. J. S. Blanchard Pfc. W. A. Pilk *Pfc. C. J. Bovd Pvt. C. J. Pollock Pvt. A. W. Brooke Pvt. D. R. Reagan Pfc. C. W. Uphouse Pvt. B. R. Richardson Pvt. H. M. Vasquez Pvt. Z. D. Burgess Pvt. A. T. Villaflores Pvt. F. A. Rodriguez Pvt. D. R. Wearing Pfc. D. Rodriguezchin Pvt. J. D. Charles

Pvt. W. M. Wells Pvt. J. W. Salter *Pfc. D. D. Williams Pfc. T. C. Wissman Pvt. J. T. Sanchez Pfc. J. D. Schonem *Pfc. M. L. Sellars PLATOON 2015 Pvt. C. D. Settje Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. M. Anderson Pvt. H. C. Shaw Pfc. R. Solis Pvt. E. F. Sosa Pvt. G. R. Spoor Pvt. R. M. Stout Sgt. A. G. Deascanis Sgt. D. K. McFadden Pvt. J. E. Sutton Pvt. S. Araiza Jr. Pfc. R. M. Trunk Pvt. B. J. Ashton Pvt. M. W. Vickers *Pfc. C. T. Baer Pfc. L. K. White Jr Pvt. N. T. Bissell Pfc. J. A. Wilkes Pvt. S. M. Boulange Pvt. A. B. Willey Pfc. W. A. Burnett Jr *Pfc. A. C. Wilson Jr Pvt. D. J. Wirtz *Pfc. D. R. Cardenas Pfc. S. P. Castaned Pfc. C. J. Wright Pfc. R. W. Cooev Pfc. D. D. Yee Pfc. K. J. Yeomans Pfc. B. J. Cortez Pvt. A. Cruz Pfc. I. K. Yuen

PLATOON 2016 Senior Drill Instructo Staff Sgt. J. J. Mora Sgt. K. D. Pirtle

Staff Sgt. C. A. Mejia Pvt. P. M. Becker *Pfc. D. A. Crews Pvt. N. L. Davis Pvt. F. H. Finnell Pvt. J. R. Garrisobrier Pvt. P. L. Geelan Pvt. K. L. Klinedinst Pvt. Z. M. Martinez Pvt. K. L. Mcguire Pvt. T. J. Mcphetridge Pvt. A. J. Moro Pfc. Z. D. Newstrom Pvt. M. J. Ohmstede Pfc. J. L. Oldenburg *Pfc. M. R. Pacheco Pvt. K. W. Page Pfc. Z. A. Pepin

Pvt. D. M. Piele

Pfc. C. A. Pierce

Pfc. R. J. Porras

Pfc. M. W. Potter

Pvt. R. C. Putman

Pfc. E. L. Ramirez

Pvt. A. L. Raveling

Pvt. A. D. Richardson

Pfc. L. A. Rickman

Pfc. J. W. Robbinsvalladolid

Pvt. B. A. Ries

Pvt. L. E. Yearwood Pvt. R. K. Youvella *Pfc. D. Zanone



Pvt. D. R. Dilworth

Pfc. B. E. Durbin

Pvt. Z. W. Fulk

Pvt. B. L. Gable

Pvt. J. E. Garcia Jr

Pfc. C. W. Garcia

Pvt. W. J. Gatton

Pfc. K. J. Grathen

Pvt. C. T. Hanson

Pvt. K. A. Hast

Pvt. F. R. Hawes Jr.

Pvt. H. I. Hernande:

Pfc. B. M. Iglehart

Pvt. S. B. Isaacs

Pvt. D. A. Julian

Pvt. J. O. Kamerof

Pfc. A. S. Knutson

Pvt. W. A. Lawson

Pfc. D. J. Ludemar

Pvt. J. T. Lumsdon

Pvt. J. M. Marsik li

Pvt. G. E. Maxwell

Pvt. J. E. McMillin

Pvt. S. M. Mees

Pvt. D. C. Nelson

Pfc. D. A. Nicely

Pvt. N. J. Nikirk

Pvt. D. J. Newhauser

Pvt. R. L. Leblanc Jr

Pvt. J. L. Kriesel

Pfc. W. R. Hammond

Pfc. Z. M. Roberts Pfc. C. R. Robinson Pfc. A. Ruiz Pvt. F. W. Rushing Pvt. B. E. Rutledge Pvt. T. M. Rvan *Pfc. J. R. Schneider I Pvt. J. G. Salinas Pvt. P. G. Schoppet Pfc. C. D. Seamons Pvt. W. T. Senot Pfc. J. C. Shibler Pfc. G. A. Sias Pvt. B. M. Sifuentes Pvt. T. A. Silhan Pvt. K. S. Sisler Pfc. D. T. Skall Pfc. A. T. Slowikows Pvt. D. P. Smith Jr. Pvt. R. R. Smith

Pfc. M. H. Spence Pvt. S. A. Spencer Pvt. D. W. Stafford Pvt. D. A. Stevens Pfc. D. K. Stewart Pfc. Z. A. Stewart Pfc. C. J. Stokes Pfc. J. A. Tessin Pvt. T. D. Travis Pfc. L. D. Trotter Pvt. E. Tsui Pvt. J. O. Turner Pfc. A. D. Unbehaur *Pfc. D. W. Vann

Pfc. A. D. Waldron Pvt. M. J. Walker Pvt. B. T. Wauneka Pfc. J. B. Webb Pvt. J. L. Wightwick Pfc. A. C. Willhite Pvt. M. J. Witzel Pvt. B. C. Wray Pvt. A. R. Yazzie

*Meritorious promotion



Depot Mascot, Lance Cpl. Molly Marine works out with a Pilates ball while gym patrons sweat out the aerobathon stations. Ptc. Alicia Small/Chevron photos



Virginia Stafford, a fitness trainer at the depot Fitness Center teaches participants Yoga stretches as one of the last classes of this year's aerobathon.

MCCS gets blood pumping at aerobathon

BY PFC. ALICIA SMALL Chevron staff

Marines, sailors and civilians aboard the depot got their hearts pumping during the Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Aerobathon held at the MCRD Fitness Center from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 23.

There were eight classes available during the event, ranging from hard-hitting kickboxing and spin class to relaxing yoga and tai chi.

The classes lasted only half-an-hour, which enabled those in attendance to participate in more than one class and obtain a better idea of what is accessible at the fitness center.

"I think the aerobathon provided a good way to find out about what the gym has to offer," said Lance Cpl. Anthony V. Rogers, administration clerk. "Many people who work on this depot don't realize how many programs exist for their benefit."

Depot personnel have more to use at the fitness center than just weights.

They now have two certified personal trainers, Martina Johnson, native of San Diego, and Jeremy Sabastian of Narraganfett, R.I. They can aid people in choosing the proper workout programs for themselves.

A micro-fit assessment, which consists of a blood pressure check, flexibility, upper-body strength, aerobic capacity and

fat testing, is given to help determine what kind of class is needed most.

During the event, the instructor teaching the class changed every half hour.

"I like the idea of the new instructors because it brings variation to the class," said Rogers, native of Chicago, Ill. "Different instructors like to work out different."

According to Reggie Cosby, the daytime manager at the fitness center, all of the instructors know how to work all of the separate parts of the body properly. Each instructor stresses the importance of stretching before and after working out and participating in the proper program.

Cosby, a native of Henderson Ky., believes fitness is important for all people, but more so for those in the military because of the high level of demand put on them.

Turnout for the occasion was as good. The fitness center's goal was to have at least 80 participants, and that goal was reached, said Pam Swords, health promotion coordinator.

"The aerobathon was a fun event that provided a good way to give back to all the people who work on base," said Swords, native of Elizabethtown, Pa. "Everyone involved had a great time and looks forward to the excitement of next year's aerobathon."